

Hobbs, NM- Monday, Congressman Harry Teague announced that the city of Belen has received a grant which will enable the city to purchase two new, much needed fire trucks. The funding, allocated through the Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Program, will be combined with a USDA low-interest Community Facility loan.

"At a time when our public officials are being forced to cut back in order to balance tight budgets, it's essential that we continue to support and help grow public services in small and rural communities. This targeted investment will provide a necessary improvement to this city's infrastructure and help to ensure that our firefighters have the resources and equipment they need to protect the City of Belen," said Harry Teague.

The City of Belen was awarded \$73,500 for the purchase of the vehicles. One of the new trucks is a heavy-duty brush truck, which can respond to wild land fires, fire alarms, motor vehicle accidents and general assistance calls. The other truck is a 3,000 gallon capacity pumper/tanker combination capable of pumping 1,200 gallons per minute.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure.

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